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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/536,866

05/27/2005

Yasuhito Niikura

00862.521154.

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01/05/2010

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EXAMINER

TSUI, WILSON W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/05/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/536,866	Applicant(s) NIIKURA ET AL.	
	Examiner WILSON TSUI	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20090921</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This final action is in response to the amendment filed on: 09/21/09, and IDS filed on: 09/21/09.
2. Claims 1-24 are cancelled. Claims 25-28 are new. Claims 25 and 27 are independent claims.
3. The following rejections are withdrawn, in view of applicant's amendments:
 - Claims 1-6, 8 - 10, 12-17, 19, and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al, in further view of Singh et al.
 - Claims 11 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al, in view of Singh et al, and further in view of Huttenlocher et al.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/21/09 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata (US Patent: 5,896,203, issued: Apr. 20, 1999, filed: Apr. 3, 1996), and view of

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Kobayashi (US Application: US 2002/0051212 A1, published: May 2, 2002, filed: Sep. 6, 2001, EEFD Sep. 8, 2000).

With regards to claim 25, Shibata teaches:

A scanner processing unit constructed to optically scan an original and generate a first image data in a first data format which is a RAW format (column 9, lines 5-12: *whereas, a scanner generates image data in RAW format*)

A memory management unit constructed to generate a single page management record for managing the first image data (column 9, lines 30 - 41: *whereas for each page there is a page management information as shown in Fig 7a, 7b*).

an encoding unit constructed to generate a second image data from the first image data, in a second data format other than the RAW format (column 9, lines 24-26: *whereas, the raw image data is converted/encoded into MMR image data*).

a first data processing unit constructed to execute a first predetermined processing using the first image data in the RAW format (column 9, lines 12-30: *whereas, there is a raw image processor, to encode raw images into MMR and flag/code/mark progress appropriately via CM type codes*);

a second data processing unit constructed to execute a second predetermined processing using the second image data in the second format (column 13, lines 12-21, Fig 12, column 13, lines 25-30: whereas the second image data in a second MMR format is processed to be stored in a temporary buffer, and the output image data is processed by a transmission algorithm and appropriately placed in a transmission buffer, until all contents are transmitted).

wherein the memory management unit causes the page management record to manage the second image data in association with the first image data (Fig 7A, 7B, whereas page management data includes other status type management data to keep track of which part of a page is in raw format (unencoded), and which part of a page has been converted into MMR format, through the use of CM codes (column 9, lines 12-30), as well as the status of image data (column 9, lines 40-41) the first image data and second image data is managed by ID's and also flags in temporary memory)

However, Shibata does not expressly teach *wherein the memory management unit deletes the page management record in a case that (a) a delete request of the page management record is received from at least one of the first data processing unit or the second data processing unit and (b) neither of the first data processing unit or the second data processing unit is referring to the page management record.*

Yet, Kobayashi teaches *wherein the memory management unit deletes the page management record in a case that (a) a delete request of the page management record is received from at least one of the first data processing unit or the second data processing unit and (b) neither of the first data processing unit or the second data processing unit is referring to the page management record* (Fig 4, paragraph 0043: whereas, file management record information is released, when there is no next page signal/request from a decoding process, and the encoding and decoding processes are not referring to the page management data any longer).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Shibata's method for managing first and second data formats, such that the managing would have further included the removal of management data, after related processes are finished referring to the page management data, as taught by Kobayashi. The combination of Shibata and Kobayashi would have allowed Shibata to have "efficiently managed/used memory, when managing page information" (Kobayashi, paragraph 0006).

With regards to claim 26, which depends on claim 25, the combination of Shibata and Kobayashi teaches *the second data format*, as similarly explained in rejection for claim 25, and is rejected under similar rationale.

Additionally, Kobayashi teaches the second data format *is a JBIG format* (Abstract: whereas JBIG is the second format from encoding).

With regards to claim 27, for a method that is similar to the method performed by the apparatus of claim 25, is rejected under similar rationale.

With regards to claim 28, for a method that is similar to the method performed by the apparatus of claim 26, is rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 25-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILSON TSUI whose telephone number is (571)272-7596. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CESAR B PAULA/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178

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/Wilson Tsui/

Patent Examiner

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December 30, 2009